Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An optical fiber comprising a core region extending along a predetermined axis, and a cladding region provided on an outer periphery of said core region and mainly comprised of silica glass, said optical fiber having:

a cable cutoff wavelength of 1260 nm or less;

a transmission loss of 0.32 dB/km or less at a wavelength of 1310 nm; and

a OH-related loss increase of 0.3 dB/km or less at a wavelength of 1380 nm,

wherein said cladding region is doped with fluorine.

2. (Original) An optical fiber according to claim 1, wherein the transmission loss at the wavelength of 1310 nm is 0.30 dB/km or less.

3. (Original) An optical fiber according to claim 1, wherein a transmission loss at the wavelength of 1380 nm is lower than a transmission loss at the wavelength of 1310 nm.

4. (Original) An optical fiber according to claim 1, wherein a difference between a transmission loss at a wavelength of 1550 nm and a transmission loss at the wavelength of 1310 nm is 0.13 dB/km or less.

5. (Previously presented) An optical fiber according to claim 1, further having a zero dispersion wavelength in the range of 1300 nm to 1324 nm.

6. (Original) An optical fiber according to claim 1, further having a polarization mode dispersion of 0.5 $ps/km^{1/2}$ or less at a wavelength of 1550 nm.

7. (Original) An optical fiber according to claim 1, further having a bending loss of 3 dB/m or less in a bending diameter of 20 mm at a wavelength of 1550 nm.

8. (Original) An optical fiber according to claim 1, further having a Petermann-I mode field diameter of 10.0 μm or less at a wavelength of 1550 nm.

9-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) An optical fiber according to claim 17, wherein said core region contains no GeO_2.

19. (Previously presented) An optical fiber according to claim 1, wherein said core region has an outer diameter in the range of 7.5 μm to 8.6 μm, and

wherein a relative refractive index difference of said core region with respect to said cladding region falls within the range of 0.36% to 0.42%.